

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 1-30

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-30 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. The Examiner asserts that claims 1-30 merely use different language to claim the same subject matter as claims 1-16 of Gregg '521. Applicant respectfully traverses this grounds for rejecting the claims. In Gregg '521 electrically conductive material (for example copper or silver (see col. 7, ll. 50-55)) is used to provide power to light emitting diodes. Therefore, a separate light source is needed for each location on the surface from which light is emitted. Under the present invention, light conducting material such as fiber optics are used to directly transmit light. Therefore, a single light source can be use to emit light from several locations on the surface.

The present independent claims (1, 15, and 29) recite a "light conductive path" (or in the case of claim 29 "fiber optic conductors"). The Gregg '521 patent makes no mention of conducting light. Instead, it is clear from a review of the Gregg '521 patent that that reference contemplates only the conduction of electricity, and not light. The conductive material in the Gregg '521 patent is used to conduct power, typically electricity, to light emitters. There is no suggestion in Gregg '521 of using the conductive material to conduct light directly, as is recited in the present claims. For this reason, the present claims would not be obvious over the claims in Gregg '521.

Independent claims 1 and 15 further require that the conducive path have one end optically coupled to a light source and a second end for emitting light. Similarly, independent

claim 29 requires that the fiber optic conductors each have one end optically coupled to a light source and a second end for emitting light. Nothing in Gregg '521 suggests that the conductive path can be "optically" coupled to a light source. Furthermore nothing in Gregg '521 suggests that the conductive path can be used to emit light from one of its ends. For these additional reasons, the present claims would not be obvious over the claims in Gregg '521.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner should withdraw the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1-30.

Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1-30

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-30 as being anticipated by Gregg '521. However, for the same reasons discussed above, Gregg '521 fails to show, or even suggest, some of the limitations present in each of the pending claims. Independent claims 1 and 15 recite "a light conductive path," "the path having a first end optically coupled to [a] light source," and "a second end [of the conductive path] for emitting light." Gregg '521 fails to show these limitations. Similarly, independent claim 29 recites "a plurality of fiber optic conductors" and that "the fiber optic conductors each hav[e] a first end optically coupled to the light source and a second end for emitting light." None of these limitations from claim 29 are disclosed by Gregg '521. Because Gregg '521 fails to show limitations from each of the independent claims, it cannot anticipate the claims. Therefore, the Examiner should withdraw the rejection of claims 1-30 as being anticipated by Gregg '521.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that the application be passed to allowance. In the event the Examiner has questions or comments and a telephone conversation would expedite

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a resolution, the Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (515) 699-3276.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Gilchrist", written over a horizontal line.

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